(d) if so, whether Madhya Pradesh is also one of the States where the dry land works will be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) to (d) The proposals for the VIII Five Year Plan for creating additional irrigation facilities have not yet been finalised. However, the additional irrigation potential that would be created during VIII Plan through ongoing and new schemes, would benefit the dry land areas in Madhya Pradesh also In the VIII Plan, thrust will remain on completion of ongoing schemes

Emergency Food Aid to the Soviet Union

763 SHRI G G. SWELL Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether India have rushed emergency food aid to the Soviet Union;

(b) the amount of food delivered and the break-up of items, and

(c) whether the quantity of food that the Soviet Union will need has been assessed and if so, over what period?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have decided to provide USSR one million tonnes of wheat on a loan basis, as well as a gift of 20,000 tonnes of rice and other essential items such as medicines, medical supplies and processed food items. The first consignment consisting of medicine and food items has been sent by a special flight on 27th December, 1990.

(c) According to Soviet estimates, additional imports of Roubles 10 billion would be required in 1991 to tide over the present shortages.

Visit of former Minister of External Affairs to Kuwait

764. DR RATNAKAR PANDEY Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the then Minister of External Affairs had visited Kuwait in August, 1990 after its occupation by Iraq;

(b) whether it is also a fact that he was the first Foreign Minister of another country who had visited Kuwait;

(c) whether it is also a fact that he travelled in a special chartered plane, known as "Millionaire Flight"; and

(d) if so, the list of those Indian nationals who were evacuated by the then Minister of External Affairs in this Millionaire Flight and what was the basis of their selection to travel with him in that flight?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) and (d) No, Sir The Minister of External Affairs travelled in an Indian Air Force transport aircraft on which 256 Indian nationals were brought to India, selected on the basis of medical or other exigencies and the recommendations of the local organisations of Indians

News item captioned 'Madras Telephones face Equipment Supply Crunch'

765 SHRI R GANESAN *alias* MISA R. GANESAN.

SHRI V GOPALSAMY

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state.